

# THE WEEKLY LANCASTER GAZETTE.

THE UNION OF THE STATES—ONE COUNTRY—ONE DESTINY.

LANCASTER, OHIO, THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1862.

NO. 10.

## The Lancaster Gazette.

CLARKE, KOOKEN & SUTPHEN,  
EDITORS & PROPRIETORS.

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OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

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He became popular as a fighting man at the time when Union men were so heartily driven from their homes in the border counties of Missouri. He espoused their cause, fought gallantly against their rebel persecutors, and his motives were for a comparatively long time unquestioned. His bravery made him a friend, and when the First Cavalry was organized Cleveland became a Captain.

We first saw him in July. He then called himself Moore, said he was one of Montgomery's men, had letters from him (these he never produced), and told many stories of blood and fell, in all of which he was the hero.

He was a natural and lawless adventurer, and Jenson and Anthony, who had befriended him most, for sufficient cause, got him out of their regiment almost as soon as he was mustered in. From that time, September last, he has been known chiefly as a desperado and robber. One of his first operations was at Kansas City, where he broke into Northrop & Co.'s bank, and robbed it of \$3,000. A similar attempt made afterward at Atchison was a failure.

THE MERRIMAC.

Why She was Destroyed and What She Failed to Do—The Story of Her Master's Fate and Gunner.

The master's name and gunner of the Merrimac have arrived at Fort Monroe from Norfolk, and the correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer gives an account of an interview with them. They tell an interesting story. We copy:

The master's name is E. K. McLaughlin, son of the proprietor of the Baltimore Hotel, in Baltimore. He was arrested in Norfolk last Saturday, when our troops took possession of the city, but afterward released on his parole. To day he took the oath of allegiance, and is on his way home. He was on board the Merrimac when she sank the Cumberland and promoted for signal services in that action.

The gunner's name is Bull, a native of Baltimore, where he has a widowed mother residing. At the breaking out of the rebellion he had just been discharged from the naval service of the United States, after a service of five years. He immediately shipped on board a vessel for England, and on his arrival there reshipped in a merchantman for New Orleans. The vessel successfully ran the blockade, and her crew was discharged. He was told by the Confederates that he must enlist, either in the army or navy; he preferred the latter. Upon the completion of the Merrimac he was detailed as one of her crew, in the capacity of gunner. In the action of that memorable Sunday, when she destroyed the Cumberland and Congress, a shot from the Cumberland entered the port hole of her bow pivot gun, killing two men and wounding several others. After that no one volunteered to take charge of this gun for fear of a similar disaster. He did so, and has since had charge of it.

Commodore Tatall was very imbecile and child-like, and so feeble that he had to be assisted up and down stairs. The crew had no confidence in him, but were proud of Captain Buchanan. When the rebels found that the tugboat J. B. White had deserted and came down to the Point, they at once concluded that their plans were given in detail to our officers here. Captain Byers is worthy of great praise and many thanks for the important news which he brought. It is well known here that, owing to his information, the important movements lately made took place. The rebels had lightened the Merrimac with the intention of running her up James river to Richmond; but finding their plans betrayed, they determined to come down into the Roads and cover their retreat which was then going on at Norfolk and Craney Island. When our fleet shelled Sewall's Point there were only two companies stationed there to keep up appearance.

The Merrimac, according to arrangement, came down, which was then going on. The officers knew that the Galea, Ararat and Port Royal had gone to the James river there—for their project in that direction was decidedly impolitic. Upon Saturday night a consultation took place on board the Merrimac. The officers all became intoxicated, and in this condition debated what the Southern chivalry should do with their vessel. The conference ended with the determination to blow her up, and destroy one of the rebellion's greatest hopes. So great was the hurry of the debarkation that nothing but the officers' and men's effects were removed. They did not even spike the guns, as was their intention. They took off the locks, and adjusting their slow match, left their ship to her ignominious fate. The gunner had with him all the locks of the bow pivot gun, and also a sword belonging to one of the officers of the vessel, who had given it to him for the purpose of stationing pickets, instead of which he left for Norfolk and taking the oath of allegiance, is now on his way North. A gentleman with strong proclivities for trophies, offered the gunner five dollars for the pivot lock which was accepted after much hesitation.

Official Report by Capt. Davis of the Naval Fight at Fort Pillow.

U. S. ELIAS STEAMER BENSON,  
Off Fort Pillow, May 11.

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy.

Sir: I have the honor to inform the Department that, yesterday morning, a little after 7 o'clock, the rebel squadron, consisting of eight iron-clad steamers, four of them, I believe, called as ram-cannoes, came around the point at the head above Fort Pillow, and steamed gallantly up the river, fully prepared for a regular engagement.

The vessels of this squadron were lying at the time they came up to the bank of the river—three on the eastern and four on the western side—and (as they were) transferred to me by Flag Officer Porter ready for action. Most of the vessels were prompt in obeying the signal of following the motions of the Commander-in-Chief.

The leading vessel of the rebel squadron made directly for mortarboat No. 16, which was for a moment unprotected. Acting Master Gregory and his crew behaved with great spirit during the action. He fired his mortar eleven times at the enemy, reducing the charge and diminishing the elevation.

Commander Stembel, in the gunboat Cincinnati, which was the leading vessel in the line on that side of the river, followed immediately by Commander Kilty in the Mound City, hastened to the support of the mortarboats, and were repeatedly struck by the enemy's rams, at the same time that they disabled the enemy and drove him away.

The two leading vessels of the enemy's line were successively encountered by this ship. The boilers or steam chest of one of them was exploded by our shot, and both of them were disabled. They, as well as the first vessel encountered by the Cincinnati, drifted down the river.

Commander Walker informs me that he fired a 50 pound rifle shot through the boiler of the third of the enemy's gunboats, of the western line, and rendered her for the time being helpless.

The action lasted during the better part of an hour, and took place at the closest quarters. The enemy finally retreated with haste, below the guns of Fort Pillow.

I have to call the especial attention of the Department to the gallantry and good conduct exhibited by Commanders Stembel and Kilty, and Lieutenant Commanding S. L. Phelps.

I regret to say that Commander Stembel, Fourth Master Reynolds, and one of the seamen of the Cincinnati, and one of the Mound City, were severely wounded. The other accidents of the day were slight.

I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant,  
C. H. Davis,  
Capt. Comd'g Miss. Flotilla, pro tem.

For the Lancaster Gazette.  
Church Choirs.

Progression is the watchword of the nineteenth century; but it is a question demanding sincere thought, whether the substitution of new things for old, or the change of time-honored and venerated institutions and usages deserves the appellation, or advances the general good. If religion, morality and the general improvement of society is enhanced thereby, why then, let us have as many new things as possible. Let us rip up our old institutions, under which wise and good men have grown up, and religion, good breeding and good society have given direction to the world, and cast them to the winds. But experience in some things that have been done, and careful reflection and respectation, will admonish us to be wary. The incoming generation, significantly spoken of as "Young America," have not been educated to cherish much veneration, or even respect, for the institutions of their fathers. They propose to take the rudder of society out of the hands of the old pillars, who they love to designate as "old fogies," and inaugurate a new and better state of things. Coming times will testify to this wisdom or folly, of the better state of things, which some of the "old fogies" tacitly, and others unwillingly, submit to.

The separation from religious assemblies, of a select number of persons, who are placed in the gallery, or in a corner of the meeting house, and assigning to them the duty of singing for the whole congregation, is one of the innovations of modern times that may justly be complained of, and a usage to which, I, by no means assent. The singing of sacred words and sacred tunes, as a part of divine worship, is the privilege, as much as it is the duty of all; and has, from the earliest initiation of the christian religion, been held to be as much a part of devotion as prayer. It is a duty and an obligation which cannot be delegated, any more than prayer. An attempt to worship by proxy is as absurd as it is impious. And this is done when a congregation of worshippers consent to allow a few to do for them that which it is their duty to do for themselves.

Church choirs are not always composed of religiously inclined persons; not by any means; however respectable they may be in other regards. Neither are they always made up of the best voices. It has been my privilege to know much of choirs, and I may speak understandingly of them. A choir in a church is necessarily an aristocracy. They feel honored by the position to which they are assigned, and they at once assume that it is their peculiar prerogative to sing; hence, they neither expect nor desire the congregation to join in; at least not so as to prevent them from being distinctly heard and applauded; and all know that it is to be expected that they will exert their best efforts to please. I am but speaking understandingly, when I say, that there is nothing more flattering to the pride of singers than to know that it has been said of them that they—have a splendid base voice; that a splendid soprano, Miss—sings; her voice is almost divine; Miss—sings a sweet alto. The Methodist church has a

splendid tenor; and the Presbyterian choir sings finely.

Now all this is well enough, if nothing more is sought after in church singing, than fine artistic display, and to that, ever, choir singing aspires. But I protest, that it does not come within my comprehension of the spirit and intention of divine worship. None love more than myself, correct and harmonious singing; or as disturbed more by discordant sounds.

But I shall be able to show, if I have an opportunity, that a large congregation can be trained to sing as correctly, and as harmoniously, as a select choir; and certainly more devoutly, while at the same time, the intention of worship would be subserved. I have been told that choirs are only intended to lead this part of worship, while it is expected, and desired, that all shall join in it; and that in this way, congregational singing is to be established.

My experience has been large, in this respect; but I have to say, that I have not been so fortunate as to witness an instance of this kind, nor do I ever expect to, for reasons already assigned, as well as for others which I shall give.

Those who were familiar with religious assemblies thirty or forty years ago, will revert with pleasing remembrance to the solemnity that characterized their devotional exercises when the whole congregation united their voices in anthems of praise and supplication. But those were days when the world took time to think, and to worship, and to recognize their obligations to their Creator. The remembrance of them becomes painful, in contrast with the present, when everything, even religious duty, has its eye, from railroads and telegraph wires. The worshippers of those days, who yet linger on the shores of time, still take their places in the church, but depart under the painful realization that the life and power of religion has departed from the temple, and that forms, ceremonies and worldliness have usurped the place.

The good old tunes, composed and sung when pure devotion alone dictated, are no longer thought fit to be sung, and are even called by the present style of worshippers, "old fogies." The style of music substituted for them, though many of the compositions are very excellent, could be used as well, and some of it much more appropriately, in the opera, than the sanctuary.

But it is useless to enlarge. I fear much, that the good old times have drifted into the dim past, and that the world has not been bettered thereby. I have been pained at witnessing, often, special efforts to produce fine music for the purpose alone of making the church attractive, and to gather audiences; upon the principle, that the irreligious love to go where there is the best music. Can this be possible? Every one knows it to be true; I cannot pass by this point without saying, that those who honestly think this method of attracting sinners to the gospel, have a low appreciation of it, or are more attached to the world themselves, than to religion.

But it is said, the present is a progressive age. It is; but rapid growths are not usually healthy; there is such a thing as progressing ahead of steady habits and good decorum, as well as good government. The present condition of these United States illustrates what I have said. Would it not be better to check up, and respect the usages of the better days? and if we worship, let us sing; let everybody sing, and let the head have less to do with it than the heart.

ARTHUR.

For the Lancaster Gazette.  
Excerpt.

Reader, if thou wouldst be wise, just and true, or if thou wouldst indelibly inscribe thy name within the golden register of unfading time, and impress thy character and acts upon the memories of the great generations yet to come, then we earnestly entreat thee to heed our admonitions, and whatever difficulty, what ever course or effect, may present itself to any of thy senses—think it out. It will dispel much darkness from thy inquiring mind, increase the vision of thy faculties and reveal to thy mind's eye hidden treasures which may not only be a blessing to thyself, and to thy fellow beings of the present generation, but to generations yet to come.

Eudoxus, the Egyptian mathematician, of Alexandria, who died 277 years before Christ, had not the least idea of the immense value he bestowed upon his generation, upon ours, and upon many generations yet to come, by the laborious thinking out of his mathematical and geometrical laws and problems. But when John Napier, of Manchester, Scotland, thought out his system of logarithms, during the sixteenth century, and Robert Simon, of Glasgow, England, his chronic sections, during the seventeenth century, they well knew that they had wisely inscribed their names by the side of that of the immortal Euclid. Galileo thought out the telescope, which, by the improvements of Hével and others, has brought to our vision worlds beyond worlds; and Lincolnshire astronomer, Sir Isaac Newton, by his diligence, thought out the universal law of gravitation, by which all matter is governed, and by which these worlds are sustained and governed in their several motions.

Benjamin Franklin, the poor printer boy, of Boston, who thought out the identity of electricity and lightning, subdued and chained it, had not the faintest conception that he left for a Morse, many years after him, to think out the method of employing it as a carrier of intelligence.

not only over the greater extent of the continents, but even across the wide and unfathomable ocean. But we have in stepped enough examples upon this subject, and I will now assert, that no proper estimate can be made of the importance and value, which these several discoveries, alone, have been and will ever be to mankind. But readers, we pledge to thee our word that there are still others of paramount importance to be thought out, than wilt thou not, if thy capacities are equal to the task, avail thyself of the opportunity of blessing thy fellow beings, by thinking out some unconceived, hidden inextinguishable something, that will revolutionize the arts and sciences of all the past, and of the present generation; and by so doing engrave thy name upon the tablets of fame, in such characters that neither time nor waste can ever efface them? Reader, it is thy christian duty to usefully employ whatever ability of thinking out power thou mayest possess; we deem it to be ours to remind thee of it, and now we shall leave by saying to thee as we began—Exhortate.

ALMADA CORP.

Near Pleasantville, May 20th, 1862.

PROGRESS OF OPINION IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Significant Articles from Journals of that State—Growing Disquiet with Rebellion.

Our already published an account of the disagreement between Gov. Clark of North Carolina and the rebel leaders at Richmond, and of the refusal of the former to supply the latter with any more troops. A State Convention is now in session at Raleigh, composed mostly of new men, but with at least a dozen well known conservatives among its members. What this Convention will do remains to be seen. That a ferment has begun in the State is, however, very obvious, as will be seen by the following extracts from leading papers:

THE REBEL CONSCRIPTION ACT.

[From the Raleigh Standard, April 26.]

There is no good reason for urging a levy in mass on the people, and it is too wicked and dangerous to attempt to force free men to do what they have been free to do voluntarily. We are inflexibly opposed to calling into the field as hiring soldiers all our fighting men between eighteen and thirty-five, and then disarming the remainder of the population, as proposed by the President in his "request" to Mayor Ashe. Our liberties might not, in the end, be destroyed by such a course; but we are not willing to trust any man, or any Government of delegated powers under any circumstances, with the exercise of such a power.

The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

We are glad to find that the press of this State is generally opposed to conscription.

[From the Fayetteville Observer.]

Here and there is found a man with a wife and half a dozen to a dozen children, dependent upon his labor alone for bread and his presence for protection; shall such men be carried off to the army? To find food for the family, to say nothing of the army? We tell the authorities, that there are already serious and alarming apprehensions upon this latter point. We lately received a letter from an upper county, begging us to call attention to the fact, that there are there will not be laborers enough left (in a section where there are few slaves) to reap and save the crops of small grain now nearly ready for the sickle. Give the President a standing army, consisting of all male citizens between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five, with power to call into the field as many as he pleases, and when and where he pleases, without saying to the Governor of a State "by your leave," and not only is the constitution subverted, but personal liberty is no more. The power to declare and enforce martial law, and imprison citizens indefinitely, without the right of habeas corpus to inquire into the cause of detention, is another wide step in the same direction. A panic prevails in the country, and those in authority have but to ask for power, on the ground of "military necessity," and the oldest and most sacred safeguards of freedom are yielded without question.

We must retain our self-possession, and our liberties, too, in the progress of this war, or we will look in vain for them at its close.

WHO SHALL WE GOVERN OF NORTH CAROLINA?

[Correspondence of the Raleigh (N. C.) Standard.]

I care not what may have been his old political affinities, so that he be not a prescriptive secessionist, and then in a short time we will remove the heavy fog which now envelops us; the ship of state will steer clear of the breakers ahead; confidence will be re-established once more in our land; speculation and incompetent officers will all be banished from the land, and in a short time an honorable and a lasting peace will be made, when we may all rest under our own vine and fig tree, and read the Standard or any other paper we may choose.

In conclusion, I repeat, we want for Governor a man of mark and distinction, and experienced statesman, wise, deliberate, discreet, with no foolhardiness, but an abundance of nerve; that is, the sort of a man we stand in need of, and the sort of a man we shall have if we do not entirely mistake the signs of the times. We will have no Aunt Rodney's or Aunt Mistray's.

Yours, truly,

LIVILLE.

THE JOURNAL FROM WHICH WE TAKE THE FOLLOWING HAS LONG BEEN SUSPECTED OF LATENT UNION SENTIMENTS, AND HAS, THEREFORE, BROUGHT UPON ITSELF THE ANIMOSITY OF THE REBEL LEADERS TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT ITS SUPPRESSION IS SPOKEN OF. HERE IS WHAT A CORRESPONDENT OF THAT JOURNAL SAYS OF EACH PROCEEDING:

[From the Raleigh Standard, April 26.]

It will be rather a dangerous as well as a high-handed experiment, I trow, for the authorities to attempt the suppression of any independent press, and more particularly the Standard, which has so warmly placed its affections and confidence in the people. I would modestly advise the authorities to consider well what they are about before they take any step in that direction. If one set of opinions only is to be advanced and "advocated" in North Carolina, and that to be done in language which must first be submitted to and approved by the authorities; then, indeed, have we fallen upon evil times, and the last vestiges of liberty of conscience and freedom of thought will have taken its everlasting departure, and the people who have heretofore enjoyed those inestimable privileges and blessings shall know them no more forever. When such a measure is taken, the hour then establish an oligarchical organ; it will dictate the publication and circulation of all other papers; issue an edict declaring Syme and Spellman—once a Virginia Scotchman and the other an Englishman—Editors Generalissimo, and make it a capital felony for any other newspaper to publish, or the people to read, anything which is not found in the columns of the Court Journal.

The Homestead Bill.

The following is a correct copy of the Homestead Bill as passed by both houses of Congress, and signed by the President:

AN ACT TO SECURE HOMESTEADS TO ACTUAL SETTLERS ON PUBLIC DOMAIN, AND TO PROVIDE BOUNTY FOR SOLDIERS TO LIVE ON GRANTS OF THE PUBLIC LANDS.

Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled: That any person who is the head of a family, or has attained the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration of intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, and who has never borne arms against the United States Government, or given aid and comfort to its enemies, shall from and after the first of January, 1863, be entitled to enter one quarter section, or a less quantity, of unappropriated public lands, upon which said person may have filed a pre-emption claim, or which may, at the time the application is made, be subject to pre-emption at \$1.25, or less, per acre; or eighty acres or less of such unappropriated lands, at \$2.50 per acre, to be located in a body, in conformity to the legal subdivisions of the public lands, and after the same shall have been surveyed: Provided, That any person owning and residing on land may, under the provisions of this act enter other land lying contiguous to his or her said land, which shall not with the land so already owned, exceed in aggregate 160 acres.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That the person applying for the benefit of this act shall, upon application to the Register of the Land Office in which he or she is about to make such entry, make affidavit before the said Register or Receiver that he or she is the head of a family, or has performed service in the army of the United States, and that he has never borne arms against the Government of the United States, or given aid and comfort to its enemies; and that such application is made for his or her exclusive use and benefit, and that said entry is made for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation, and not either directly or indirectly for the use and benefit of any other person or persons whatsoever; and upon filing the said affidavit, and on payment of \$10, he or she shall thereupon be permitted to enter the quantity of land specified; Provided, however, That no certificate shall be given or patent issued therefor until the expiration of five years from the date of such entry; and if, at the expiration of such time, or at any time within two years thereafter, the person making such entry—or if he be dead, his widow; or in case of her death, his heirs or devisee; or in case of a widow making such entry, her heirs or devisee, in case of her death—shall prove by two credible witnesses that he, she, or they have resided upon or cultivated the same for the term of five years immediately succeeding the time of filing the affidavit aforesaid, and shall make affidavit that no part of said land has been alienated, and that he has borne true allegiance to the Government of the United States; then, in such case, he, she, or they, if at that time a citizen of the United States, shall be entitled to a patent, as in other cases provided for by law; And provided, further, That in case of the death of both father and mother, leaving an infant child, or children under twenty-one years of age, the right of fee shall enure to the benefit of said infant child or children; and the executor, administrator or guardian may, at any time within two years after the death of the surviving parent, and in accordance with the laws of the State in which such children for the time being have their domicile, sell said land for the benefit of said infants, but for no other purpose; and the purchaser shall acquire the absolute title by the purchase, and be entitled to a patent from the United States, on payment of the office fees and such of money hereinafter specified.

SECTION 3. And be it further enacted, That the Register of the Land Office shall give all such applications on the tract books and plats of his office, and keep a register

of all such entries, and make return thereof to the General Land Office, together with the proof upon which they have been founded.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That no land acquired under the provisions of this act shall in any event become liable to the satisfaction of any debt or debts contracted prior to the issuing of the patent therefor.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That if, at any time after the filing of the affidavit, as required in the section of this act, and before the expiration of the five years aforesaid, it shall be proven, after due notice to the settler, to the satisfaction of the register of the land office, that the person having filed such affidavit shall have actually changed his residence, or abandoned the said land, or shall have ceased to occupy said land for more than six months at any time, then, and in that the land so entered shall revert to the Government.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That no individual shall be permitted to acquire more than one quarter section under the provisions of this act; and that the Commissioner of the General Land Office is hereby required to prepare and issue such